

Yemen..

Brutality against free **media!**

Silenced violations..

Annual Report on Violations against Freedom of Expression in Yemen

2022

Media Freedom Observatory - Yemen



MARSADAK

مرصدك

مرصد الحريات الإعلامية - اليمن
Media Freedom Observatory - Yemen

This report was prepared by the Media Freedom Observatory in Yemen. It is a platform affiliated with the Studies and Economic Media Center. The Observatory is devoted to monitoring and documenting cases of violations against the freedom of press and expression in Yemen.

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Introduction

Introduction

The war in Yemen has been going on for eight years now. Yet, the patterns of abuse against journalists have never abated, not even before the war. Repression, persecution, and imprisonment were quickly meted out to journalists and media outlets.

We are currently confronting a heavy toll of violations as we are entering the eighth year of the conflict; 54 journalists have been killed, and thousands of breaches such as arrests, torture, displacement, and harassment have been documented. The condition of media liberties in Yemen is bleak due to hostile practices both physically and virtually. This is especially disappointing given that Yemen had achieved tremendous legislative and practical advances in freedom of expression prior to the current conflict.

The war against independent journalism and journalists in Yemen has continued uninterrupted despite a de-escalation between the warring sides for nearly a year. Killings, summary executions, arrests, and torture have all been reported in Sana'a, Aden, and Taiz. All governorates in Yemen are subject to trials; however, freedom of the press is severely limited.

Despite threats, violence, and censorship from numerous groups, journalists and media outlets in Yemen, especially independent ones, struggle to function in a complex and difficult environment. They strive to provide field reports that reflect the dire reality and consequences of the war on Yemeni citizens. They shed light on human rights violations and the escalating humanitarian crisis in Yemen.

The MARSADAK recorded 89 violations in the past year related to the persecution of Yemeni journalists. Death threats, physical attacks, censorship, and travel restrictions were only some of the rights that journalists in Yemen were denied.

It is regrettable that the frequency and severity of these infractions are increasing. There have been several violations in the areas under the control of the internationally recognized government, including the imprisonment of journalist Ahmed Maher in Aden and the murders of other journalists in Taiz and Aden. Meanwhile, the Ansar Allah faction of the Houthi movement keeps up its repressive practices against journalists and the media, turning cities and towns into dangerous places and stifling the freedom of the press.

This report aims to analyze the climate of media freedom in Yemen in 2022. It examines the prominent challenges faced by journalists and media outlets, the impact of the war on them, and the policies and practices that undermine people's right to information on a daily basis, whether against traditional media, social media activists, or online platforms.

Through this report, we seek to shed light on aspects of suffering and challenges and offer rays of optimism to journalists and media outlets so that they may continue their important role of informing the public with reliable, honest data. During this crucial time in Yemen's history, we believe it is crucial to document all topics related to media freedoms in order to strengthen the climate of freedom accessible to the media and highlight the crucial role of journalists and media outlets.

In presenting this significant work, MARSADAK once again calls for the protection of journalists against attacks and slander. It also underscores the necessity of holding accountable those who commit such violations, as they are perpetual offences for which there is no statute of limitations.

**Media Freedom Observatory
(MARSADAK)**



Media Landscape in Yemen

Executive Summary

Violations against journalists and independent media outlets in Yemen have taken a dangerous trajectory, with escalating violations and the depletion of the free and independent media space. This comes in the face of the growing dominance of practices that violate fundamental legal norms and restrict people's freedom of expression and access to reliable information.

In this report, we provide a comprehensive overview of the Yemeni media situation during the year 2022, illuminating the pervasive oppression of journalists and media outlets throughout the country. In particular, we shed light on the horrifying reality of Houthi-controlled territories' treatment of journalists. Dozens of interviews and testimonials from journalists who have been interrogated, monitored, or threatened by oppressive bodies, including the Houthi group, have provided insight into these occurrences that have not been publicly discussed.

This report presents stories that depict the worries, fears, and horrors experienced by journalists on a daily basis under an oppressive regime that rejects any criticism. Journalists in Yemen are subject to covert and extensive monitoring in cities like Sana'a, Al-Hudeidah, Dhamar, Ibb, and elsewhere around the country. The Houthi group has called in dozens of journalists and warned them against criticizing it or working for outlets that support its opponents. Many of them are placed under covert surveillance, not to mention the tracking and monitoring of social media content.

The report provides a summary of the major violations endured by journalists and press outlets throughout 2022. It recounts the stories of assassinations targeting journalists and highlights the suffering of the families of detained journalists. The report also attempts to provide accurate and documented information about all the violations perpetrated against journalists and social media activists.

The report delves deeper into each individual case, clarifying its

ramifications and examining its details using a meticulous and reliable monitoring methodology to document human rights violations.

The report includes important sections on the nature of violations faced by Yemeni female journalists, particularly the growing phenomenon of online bullying, extortion, and harassment, and how the consequences have impacted the involvement of Yemeni female journalists in media work and their ability to convey the suffering of Yemeni society through various media channels.

The report offers an exhaustive record of the abuses and injustices that have come to characterise Yemen's tough period. The gathered data and facts represent a sad, well-documented scenario. The purpose of this report is to bring attention to the need for a free and independent press as a cornerstone of democracy and human rights.

Despite the temporary cease-fire, the report notes that journalists and independent media outlets are still at risk from a wide range of threats. There are many sorts of intimidation against journalists and social media activists, and this threatens the very existence of independent media.

The report highlights the importance of local and international solidarity to safeguard journalists and provides key recommendations to reduce such abuses. They are considered non-prescriptive offences; hence, it is imperative that measures be put in place to protect their safety and that those guilty be held accountable.



**Journalism in Houthi-
controlled areas... Silenced
Violations**

Male and female journalists whose rights have been violated publicly for the first time share their experiences in this story. At first glance, the accounts may be mistaken for works of fiction, yet in reality, journalists face similar situations on a daily basis. The Houthi Ansar Allah group has been intimidating and coercing journalists into participating in their project through the use of summonses to intelligence agencies, surveillance, the takeover of local media and communication offices with foreign channels, and the use of coercion and intimidation.



These repetitive actions are designed to silence any critical or alternative media, and before journalists can even set foot in the field, they are subject to extensive licensing and compliance requirements.



"We can only work through them," is how Alaa Abdelfattah (alias) describes the state of the press in Sana'a, which has been under the control of the Houthi Ansar Allah group since September 2014. This phrase reflects the level of monopolization and inclusivity that has come to govern its grip on journalists in the group's-controlled areas.

Abdelfattah, an independent journalist who creates video reports for a variety of Arab and international platforms, claims that he produces no more than four reports a month for a total monthly salary of \$1,000 - \$1,200. However, given the Houthi group's continuing hold on power, things have changed substantially recently. The Houthis have shut down a number of

businesses, and the Ministry of Information in Sana'a now handles certain businesses that are primarily connected to journalists close to or associated with the Houthis or leaders of the group.

Abdelfattah used to apply to the ministry to get a filming permit for the report he was writing, but his proposal would often receive a rejection. As things progressed, he was ultimately denied permission to film, despite the fact that his reports were humanistic in nature and focused on success stories or societal storylines as opposed to politically focused media.

The ministry normally rejects requests from journalists after they have submitted extensive details regarding the report, including the premise, scenario, characters, and report budget. This was the situation for Abdelfattah for quite some time until he learned from a ministry official about an unofficial means of gaining clearance. He learned the trade secret by approaching a firm approved by the government to help him file the reports in exchange for some money, which he did.

Sami, a pen name for a journalist working in the territory controlled by the Houthis, is at the mercy of these big corporations, which seek 40% of the profits for filming each report. Despite the fact that Sami already owns his own filming equipment and has no need for the company's, he is nevertheless forced to work with them. Sami ends up paying 70% of the report's worth, which includes the company's part, editing fees, and material transmission. Nonetheless, he can either accede to the company's requests or resist the ministry's demands and stop working.

The security and intelligence authority routinely summons journalists for questioning or requests information about other journalists, and this is in addition to complete control over media production companies and manipulation of correspondents, as well as unfair conditions imposed on independent journalists to obtain permits.

Reporters doing their jobs in territories controlled by the Houthis have been the target of extensive surveillance by the intelligence agency. They call reporters in for questioning, track their whereabouts and activities, and place their own agents within the journalistic community to carry out monitoring and surveillance. Sami Al-Qadasi (a pen name) is one of the journalists who was called in. In 2020, he got a call on his personal phone from the National Security Authority, telling him he had an appointment at one of their Sana'a offices the following day.

Al-Qadasi found the hours to be exhausting and was constantly having unsettling thoughts. What do they need from me? He kept asking himself. Why have they come for me? He looked over his past experiences, his portfolio of works, his list of contacts, and anything else that might shed light on the nature of this summon, but came up empty. Al-Qadasi was worried only about returning to his family or having to leave them forever. Images of the 14 journalists kidnapped by the Houthis and other groups and authorities flashed through his head. Some of the journalists had vanished without a trace for more than 8 years, and others were sentenced to death for their reporting.

Al-Qadasi's thoughts were filled with every possible outcome, and the resulting anxiety kept him up at night. He was thinking about running away, but he knew that would have dire implications. He would be facing heavy charges if he were to be apprehended. His mind was racing with thoughts of his job, his family, and every terrifying possibility.

He visited the security office first thing the following morning. At the gate, he found out that his name was already with the guards. He was checked thoroughly and his phone was taken. One of the guards escorted him to an office, where an officer stood, making a valiant effort to keep his demeanor serious. His identity, rank, and name were all concealed.

For nearly an hour, Al-Qadasi was peppered with questions

while shaking like a baby bird. Many people assumed that he was the author of stories that appeared on an Arab news website, therefore, this was one of the most common topics of inquiry. Al-Qadasi was able to convince them that he did not write the reports and was not involved with the website in any way.

The police officer was quite respectful and gave him a chance to explain what he had to say in his defense. He suspected that the officer's smile was an attempt to pull him in, so the meeting stayed tense until its conclusion. That was his line of reasoning.

Al-Qadasi had gotten away from them, but he was on the fence about whether or not he would ever come back. Journalists operating in regions controlled by the Houthis are frequently subjected to similar summonses and interrogations.

Al-Qadasi finally got a phone call after eight long months. A landline number was used this time. The identical request was made again, this time requesting that he visit the intelligence service headquarters the following day. The nightmares and anxiety Al-Qadasi had previously overcome returned, and he wondered if everything would go easily this time. To paraphrase an old adage, "Will you hand over the jar every time?" The desire to flee returned with full force. It's terrible and unpleasant to always feel like you're being watched and afraid.

A few minutes of terror and slowness passed. Qutran, a journalist, visited the same building on multiple occasions but was never seen again. This time, Al-Qadasi did too, and the summonses were enough to get him out of Sana'a for good. He couldn't get to sleep since he kept thinking about the summoning process. He started to doubt everything and everyone and was constantly on guard.

Forced Work

Many journalists are being forced to work with the Houthi Ansar Allah group without pay, and despite their best efforts, they have been denied access to report on humanitarian crises. Abdul Fattah Al-Jabri (pen name), a journalist who claims to work with Ansar Allah and report on their events, has been banned from filming in Sana'a, Dhamar, and Ibb.

There is a simple explanation for this rejection: it's for safety concerns. Reporters have no right to know the specifics of the security measures taken. Requests for Al-Jabri to report on occasions like the Prophet's birthday, the Day of Ghadeer, and the anniversary of the Arab Alliance's intervention in Yemen under the leadership of Saudi Arabia were almost universal. He had originally sought authorization from the Ministry of Information to complete a humanitarian report in Al-Hudeidah but was first ordered to cover the city's celebration of the Prophet's birthday. After covering the event as instructed, he went to finish the permit process but was denied. After ten arduous days and several failed attempts, he finally got it after paying the permit fees and covering the Prophet's birthday.

Abdulrahman Rabie, the cameraman of Yemen Satellite Channel, whose pay has been withheld for more than five years, now works for a private Sana'a-based channel. He was tasked with filming at Sab'een Square for the recent celebration of the Prophet's birthday. Rabie expressed regret and explained that he worked for a private channel. If he didn't show up to film the Prophet's birthday party with the channel's crew, his supervisor on television threatened to withhold half of his December 2018 income. (The Houthis occasionally pay for half of government workers' salaries.) They would also be replacing him with a new cameraman. While filming the Prophet's birthday, Rabie unwillingly left his position at the private channel. According to him, he was anticipating the promised payment at the conclusion of the event. Leaving his private work, where he made \$80 in addition to his income there, he was shocked to get only 10,000 riyals, equivalent to \$16.

A Useless Card

After killing President Ali Abdullah Saleh in December 2017 and seizing full control of the capital city of Sana'a, the Houthi rebels became the de facto authority in charge of the country's media. Journalists and correspondents from Arab media outlets in Yemen have started being subjected to the group's demands and orders. They demanded exorbitant fees, often topping 100,000 riyals (\$160 USD), in order to get licenses from the Ministry of Information. Hashem Al-Aini (alias) applied to the ministry to get the card because he thought it would help him work in the streets of the capital, Sana'a, later on.

Al-Aini was asked to provide proof of his journalistic credentials by security guards after he got the card and walked out to film in the street. The high-fee card he showed them was unknown to them. The local government and the area supervisor requested that he report to their security operations center in the capital. The operations center told him that the card was not enough for him to work and film in the street as they had to implement their own procedures. Hashem, who was on unfamiliar ground in terms of reporting relationships, started a series of new procedures with the operations room and the supervisors of security squares.

Espionage and censorship

Security authorities employ a variety of strategies to monitor local journalists and social media activists. The associated security services call in certain journalists and use them as informants or to spy on their colleagues. An anonymous journalist by the name of Mohamed Ali claims that the Houthi movement has categorized all journalists and media workers, especially in the capital city of Sana'a. He claims the

group has units whose sole purpose is to silence journalists and monitor their activities to catch any who go against the group's ideology.

According to Ali, numerous reporters have been hired to spy on their fellow journalists, and entire departments have been set up to keep tabs on everything that appears in print and online.

All male and female journalists and social media activists face the same treatment in other governorates. A journalist, Ali Maslah (pen name), who works in one of the Houthis-controlled cities in Yemen, claims, «We have been summoned more than once. They scour the web for any scrap of material that would suggest we're still publishing articles or otherwise working in the media.

When journalists' every step is tracked and monitored across all of Yemen's regions, it might feel like they're being suffocated. Journalists whose beats are far removed from politics, security, and warfare are included here.

New media and censorship!

Thousands of male and female journalists and social media activists have taken to digital platforms like Facebook, Twitter, and others in the absence of independent media in areas under the control of the Houthi group. These online hubs are, however, monitored extensively. The group consciously gives some critics more leeway on social sites, but it also analyzes and monitors the content they find there.

The recent prosecutions of several social media influencers show clearly that oppressive practices are being used against everyone who uses social media to express their thoughts publicly and critically.



**Violations against freedom
of opinion and expression!**

2022

Violations Cases Against Media in Yemen

during 2022

Violations
Against
Media

89

17 Against media organizations

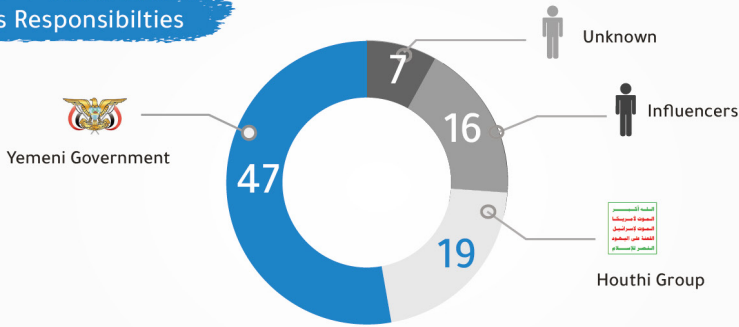


broken into

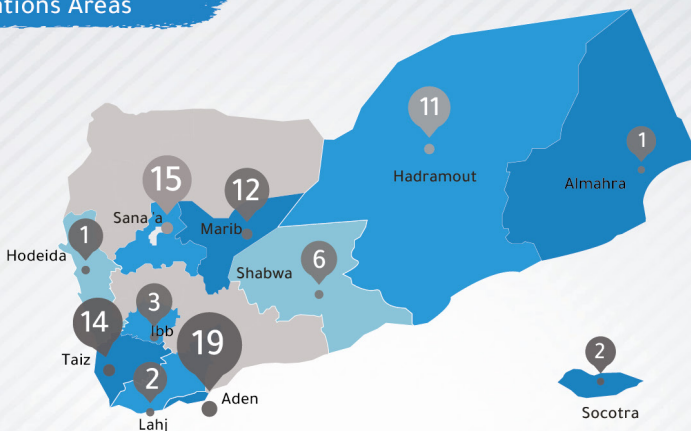
72 Against Individuals



Violations Responsibilities



Violations Areas



Mentoring Methodology

The data and information in this report were collected by a professional team of observers, who are positioned in various Yemeni regions. In collecting data, the observers relied on different methods, including direct contact with the victims, testimonies of their relatives, media or the reports submitted by the victims or their relatives to MARSADAK. The MARSADAK team reviewed and verified all the observed data and information through a verification mechanism that included at least 3 different sources. The data and information contained in this report do not mean that all violations against journalists and social media activists in Yemen have been recorded. There are cases of violations that victims or their families were hesitant to report to avoid serious risks and consequences that may be instigated by the violators.

We would also like to point out that for the sake of brevity, we will not cite all the stories of violations, as the report will only present the most prominent stories of violations suffered by journalists in Yemen.

Statistics of the year

According to MARSADAK, there were 89 violations against press freedom and journalists in Yemen in 2022. Because none of the offenders have faced any consequences, they are free to continue their attacks against journalists.

Fuad Al-Wafi and Saber Al-Haidari, two journalists, were brutally murdered last year in an effort to scare and intimidate other reporters into stopping what they were doing. While driving through the Kabuta neighborhood of the Mansoura district of Aden, Saber Al-Haidari's car exploded due to explosives put underneath it. Also, in the city of Taiz in southeastern Yemen, photojournalist Fuad Al-Wafi was found dead in his car under suspicious circumstances.

In addition to the two murder cases, one injury, thirteen arrests, eighteen assaults, thirteen threats, and nine cases of detention of journalists based on their media work have been documented. There were also three cases of incitement, prevention of filming, and hacking of a journalist's account. Furthermore, thirteen cases of trials and summoning of journalists by the prosecution, as well as seventeen violations against media institutions, were reported.

The Yemeni government, including parties present in its controlled areas, topped the list of violators against journalists in Yemen with a total of 46 violations out of the recorded cases during the past year. The Houthi group committed 19 violations, while 16 violations were recorded against influential figures, and 7 violations were committed by unknown perpetrators. It is important to note that the decrease in the number of violations in Houthi-controlled areas does not necessarily indicate an improvement in the freedom of the press and expression there. On the contrary, the harassment incidents carried out by the group in all its forms have led to a depletion of media and journalists whose work may be against the views and ideology of the Houthi group.

Taking a look at the distribution map of these violations, Aden, the interim capital of the internationally recognized Yemeni government, topped the list of governorates with the highest number of violations, with a total of 19 cases. There were 15 violations in the governorate of Sana'a, 14 violations in the city of Taiz, 12 violations in Ma'rib, 11 in Hadramaut, and 6 cases in Shabwa. Additionally, 5 violations were recorded in Lahj, while there were two violations in Socotra governorate. Furthermore, one violation was reported in both the governorates of Al-Hudeidah and Al-Mahrah.

Types of Violations

The report recorded a total of 89 violations against journalists during the past year. Out of these, 72 cases of violations were committed against individuals (journalists and social media activists), accounting for 81% of the total recorded violations, while 17 cases of violations were committed against media outlets, accounting for 19%.

The types of violations varied, including two cases of murder, one case of injury, 13 cases of arrests, 18 cases of assault, 13 cases of threats, 9 cases of journalists being detained based on their media work, 3 cases of incitement, prevention of filming, and hacking of a journalist's account. Additionally, there were 13 cases of trials and summoning of journalists by the prosecution.

The MARSADAK also documented 17 violations against media institutions, which included the suspension of broadcasting for a number of radio stations, the intrusion of the Journalists Union building in Aden, and the prevention of journalists from appearing in live broadcasts through media offices.

Geographical Distribution of Violations Areas

Different regions in Yemen have witnessed cases of violations against the media. The report documented 19 violations in the city of Aden, 15 violations in Sana'a governorate, 14 violations in the city of Taiz, 12 violations in Ma'rib, 11 in Hadramaut governorate, 6 cases in Shabwa, 5 violations in Lahj governorate, and two violations in Socotra governorate. Additionally, one violation was recorded in both Al-Hudeidah and Al-Mahrah governorates.

Responsibility for violations

During the past year, the Yemeni government, including parties present in its controlled areas, came first in the list of violators against journalists in Yemen with a total of 46 violations out of the recorded cases during the previous year. The Houthi group committed 19 violations, while 16 violations were recorded against influential figures, and 7 violations were committed by unknown perpetrators.

The Houthi-controlled territories witnessed a decreasing number of violations, but that does not necessarily mean an improvement in the index of freedom of press and expression there. In dire contrast, the Houthi group has been practicing all kinds of harassment, which has led to total absence of any media voice opposing the group.



Since the Yemeni capital, Sanaa, fell under the control of the Houthi group in September 2014, it has committed 75% of the violations recorded since the outbreak of the war in 2015.



Using all means, the Houthi group has managed to silence every voice that does not submit to it. The group opened the doors of prisons to journalists. Those who were lucky got a chance to flee the firm grip of the Group get either internally or externally displaced.



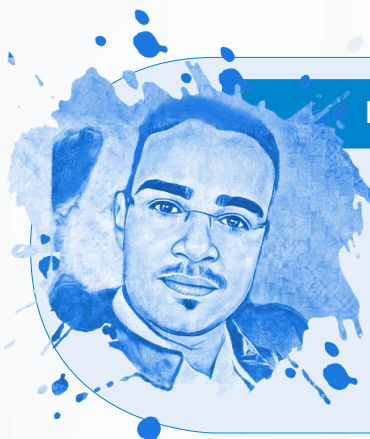
The thirteen journalists, of whom four were sentenced to death, are still languishing behind its prisons. Their imprisonment is evidence of the terrible repressive practices against the media and journalists in Yemen.



Cases of murder

The recent period has seen a rise in the severity of arbitrary practices directed at journalists to an unprecedented level in the history of the press in Yemen. The murderers of photojournalist Fawwaz Al-Wafi, whose body was discovered in his car in the city of Taiz, remain at large. Journalist Saber Al-Haidari was also brutally murdered by terrorists in one of the regions of Aden governorate when an explosive device planted in his car went off.

No	Name of the journalist	Type of violation	Date of violation	Governorate	Current situation
1	Fawwaz Al-Wafi	Murder	23 March 2022	Taiz	The criminals have not been identified.
2	Saber Al-Haidari	Murder	15 June 2022	Aden	The criminals have not been identified.



Fawwaz Al-Wafi (Photojournalist)

- **Occupation/Place of Work:** Head of the Public Relations and Media Department at the Hygiene Office in Taiz City
- **Type of Violation:** Murder
- **Date of Incident:** March 23, 2022
- **Perpetrator:** Unknown

On March 23, 2022, Fawwaz Al-Wafi (photojournalist) was found dead inside his car in mysterious circumstances in the Wadi Al-Qadi area in the center of Taiz, southwest of Yemen.

Al-Wafi's lawyer revealed to MARSADAK ¹ that the case was still pending before the West Taiz Prosecution and that three of the perpetrators had been arrested. The investigation is still ongoing.

According to the lawyer, the case's proceedings are moving along very slowly, which is detrimental to the pursuit of justice. Furthermore, the court must act quickly to arrest the remaining suspects and work with them on the inquiry.

Al-Wafi's family expressed its dissatisfaction with the slow progress of the case's procedures, despite the availability of much evidence and the calls of the people who had contacted the victim before his murder. This explains how he was lured from his home and then murdered in this shocking way, besides the attempt to obliterate the traces of the crime is a precedent in the city of Taiz.

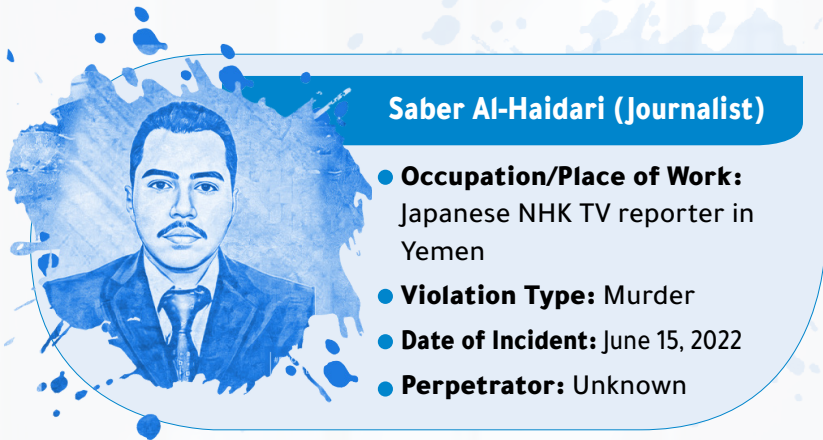
«Despite the pain, we kept tracking down the killers (the perpetrators of the crime and their collaborators) through the official authorities, the General Criminal Investigation Bureau, the Police General Department, and then resorted to the prosecution. Although much time has passed and the authorities are aware of the identities of the accused and their residences, the processes for bringing the accused have been too lengthy, and the most recent example is the failure to bring the remaining accused in Fawwaz's murder.

Al-Wafi's wife claims that she and her three children are having financial difficulties as a result of the death of their sole provider and the suspension of his income. She also asserts that the assistance she receives from her brothers and other family members is insufficient for her and her children to survive.

Three months after his death, Al-Wafi's body was buried in the «Martyrs' Cemetery» in the Asifrah neighborhood on Friday, June 24, in Freedom Square downtown, with the participation of dozens of people.

1 - MARSADAK team interviewed Fawwaz's lawyer on December 25, 2022.

Al-Wafi, who worked as the head of the Public Relations and Media Department at the Health Office in Taiz, was found dead inside his car on March 23, 2022, in Wadi Al-Qadi, in mysterious circumstances.



Saber Al-Haidari (Journalist)

- **Occupation/Place of Work:** Japanese NHK TV reporter in Yemen
- **Violation Type:** Murder
- **Date of Incident:** June 15, 2022
- **Perpetrator:** Unknown

Journalist Saber Al-Haidari, a reporter of the Japanese NHK TV, was heinously assassinated in Yemen on June 16, 2022, by planting an explosive device inside his car which exploded when he was driving through the Kabota area in Mansura District, Aden.

MARSADAK ² contacted the victim's sister who said that Al-Haidari was driving his car on Wednesday, June 16, 2022, in the governorate of Aden, where he had been residing for nearly four years, after leaving Sana'a. His car was bombed with an explosive charge that claimed his life.

The victim's sister said, «We came to know about the incident through the media. The governorate's security authorities have informed us that two suspects had been arrested and that the investigation is underway with them.» She also explained: "It is true that the case has not been closed, but

the perpetrators will remain unknown". Al-Haidari is the fifth journalist to have been killed by explosive charges during the last eight months in the city of Aden, along with other journalists including Rasha Al-Harazi, Ahmed Bu Saleh, Tariq Mustafa, and Ahmed Baras.

Saber Noman al-Haidari, 40, the father of four children, left the capital, Sana'a, in 2017, fearful of the Houthi group's oppression, to settle in Aden. He worked as a coordinator for several Arabic and foreign television channels and agencies. The last job he held after working as a correspondent for the Chinese news agency Xinhua in Yemen was a reporter for the Japanese television station (NHK). Al-Haidari's family is currently facing difficult circumstances after the death of its sole breadwinner.

Injury cases

The number of injuries suffered by Yemeni journalists has increased over the past few years, as hundreds of journalists have been injured while covering the war battles taking place in Yemen for eight years now. However, the number of injuries decreased during the first half of this year, as one case of journalist Suhaib Al-Hatami was recorded. The reason of this decline can be traced to the conflicting parties in Yemen agreed to a truce under the supervision of the UN special envoy to Yemen.



Suhaib Al-Hotami (Photojournalist)

- **Profession/Place of Work:** Photojournalist collaborating with several local and Arabic media and channels
- **Violation Type:** Injury
- **Date of Incident:** January 14, 2022
- **The Perpetrator of the Violation:** The Houthi group
- **The Journalist's Current Medical Condition:** burns to different parts of his body, «leg and neck. »

Suhaib Al-Hatami, who works as a photojournalist for several local and Arabic channels, suffered burns in separate parts of his body, especially in the “legs, thighs and neck” as a result of a missile fired by the Houthi group in an area near Harib in Ma’rib. Al-Hatami was wearing safety equipment including a helmet and a shield with his press ID written on it.

Al-Hatami who was contacted by MARSADAK ³, stated that the incident occurred while he was in the area between Al-Juba and Harib to cover the battles taking place there between the government forces and the Houthi group, as he works as a collaborator photojournalist for several local and Arabic media and channels. Al-Hatami says, “My task was to cover the events until the 14th of January when the clashes stopped. I tried to advance to areas near Harib to film the aftermath of the war. At the time, I was wearing a protective shield and a helmet with the phrase “press” written clearly on it. While I was at work, I was hit by a missile from the direction of the Houthi militia’s

location to find myself in the hospital.”

3 - MARSADAK team interviewed Al-Hatami, on January 17, 2022.

Cases of Arrest

The severity of violations against journalists and media institutions has increased in areas under the internationally recognized Yemeni government, as well as by factions affiliated with the government or forming part of it. MARSADAK has documented cases of arrests against journalists based on their media activities, with serious charges being levelled against them, reaching the level of terrorism and jeopardizing national security.

The following table details the arrests of journalists that occurred in 2022.

NO	Journalist's name	Violation type	Violation date	Governorate	Current situation
1	Nasser Bamendoub	Arrest	Jan. 7, 2022	Hadramout	Released
2	Abdullah Barhma	Arrest	June 16, 2022	Shabwa	Released
3	Abdul Rahman Sabri	Arrest	June 16, 2022	Shabwa	Released
4	Ahmed Ali Lahjar	Arrest	June 16, 2022	Shabwa	Released
5	Mohamed Saleh Bakir	Arrest	June 16, 2022	Shabwa	Released
6	Anwar Al-Sharif	Arrest	May 29, 2022	Al-Hudeidah	Released
7	Mamoun Al-Shaibani	Arrest	June 29, 2022	Aden	Released
8	Ahmed Mahir	Arrest	Aug 6, 2022	Aden	Still detained
9	Ahad Khrasan	Arrest	Aug 16, 2022	Lahj	Released
10	Abbad Al-Jaradi	Arrest	Oct 1, 2022	Sana'a	Released
11	Abdullah Salem Bada'han	Arrest	Oct 13, 2022	Socotra	Released
12	Mohammed Bin Ta'ari	Arrest	Oct 13, 2022	Socotra	Released
13	Basel Bamghlas	Arrest	Oct 14, 2022	Hadramout	Released



Ahmed Maher (Journalist)

- **Occupation/Place of Work:** Head of the Public Relations and Media Department at the Hygiene Office in Taiz City
- **Type of Violation:** Murder
- **Date of Incident:** March 23, 2022
- **Perpetrator:** Unknown

Ahmed Maher, a journalist, was detained and forcibly disappeared on August 6th, 2022 after being taken from his residence. His arrest was a result of his involvement in media activities and his outspoken criticism of the living and security situations in the southern regions. The security forces associated with the police department in Dar Saad district, Aden, not only apprehended him but also restricted his family from visiting him. Additionally, they subjected his diabetic father to physical assault.

Maher stands out among his peers for devoting his work to exposing the wrongdoing of the forces connected with the Southern Transitional Council. He accomplishes this through his journalistic writings on online platforms, social media, and televised interviews. It is widely believed that these actions were the primary cause of an arrest warrant issued against him in 2019. Subsequently, he left Aden and returned three years later, following the establishment of the Presidential Council on April 7, 2022. However, upon his return, he was arrested in August 2022 and has since been held in detention without a trial. Despite multiple court dates being scheduled, they have been repeatedly postponed for various reasons.

Five heavily armed military police vehicles in Dar Saad apprehended Ahmed Maher and his brother from their home, according to Ahmed's brother's account to the MARSADAK team ⁴. Subsequently, they were subjected to enforced disappearance and torture. Maher was specifically instructed to cease writing and publishing content that criticize the leadership of the Transitional Council and its armed forces. When Maher refused to comply, they threatened to kill him and his father, who was

also detained for four hours. During this period, he was physically assaulted in front of his brother, and he was deprived of food and water for approximately one to two days.

Ahmed Maher and his brother endured different types of torture while in detention, such as electric shocks and being struck with rifle butts. A group of four to five people beat them, and he and his brother frequently faced threats of execution. The soldiers also fired gunshots near their feet and above their heads to instill fear, all while they were blindfolded. Maher's brother described how their breath was sometimes restricted by using a damp cloth while pouring water over the cloth that covered their faces and mouths.

He added, «The continuous torture inflicted upon Ahmed made him confess to everything demanded of him. Maher appeared in a video where he made confessions that incriminated him under duress.»

Maher sent a written message from Bir Ahmed prison in Aden, where he is currently held. In the message, he clarified that all the charges against him are unfounded and extracted through torture. He revealed that even the prosecutor's office obtained his statements from the place of torture. Ahmed called for a thorough investigation into all the violations he has suffered since his arrest, emphasizing his right to a fair trial and requesting to be transferred from his current prison in order to attend court sessions.

4 - MARSADAK team interviewed Ahmed's brother, on December 29, 2022.

Illegal procedures

During the arrest, enforced disappearance, and torture of journalist Ahmed Maher, illegal procedures that violated both Yemeni laws and international human rights laws were employed. Maher was coerced into making confessions in a video where he was forced to admit to actions considered a threat to national security. His case was later transferred to the specialized criminal court in Aden, which lacks jurisdiction over press-related offences. Currently, the security and judicial authorities persist in delaying his trial, as four scheduled trial sessions in December have been postponed.



By consulting local authorities, one learns that Maher was detained by security forces in a manner that is against Article 29 of the 2011 Criminal Procedures Law which states “No one shall be arrested or detained except upon the order of the competent authority and in compliance with the law. They should be treated with respect at all times, and they shouldn’t be hurt emotionally or physically”. The security officials didn’t stop at just arresting him, though; they tortured him as well. In addition, they showed him in a video in which he made forced confessions while visibly suffering from abuse. It is clear from a review of the film that it was released illegally and beyond the bounds of a thorough investigation and collection of evidence. More than a month after his initial arrest, security officials still have Maher locked up, despite not having the authority to hold anyone for longer

than 24 hours without releasing them or referring the case to the prosecutor if there is sufficient evidence. According to Yemen's Criminal Procedures Law, a detainee is not allowed to be kept in custody for more than seven days without a judge's approval. This is true to allow a more thorough investigation.

Mazen Sallam, the lawyer of journalist Ahmed Maher, confirmed to us that all the procedures taken against his client were in violation of national and international human rights laws. This includes the manner of his arrest, his enforced disappearance, and his appearance in a video making coerced confessions. Lastly, his case was transferred to the specialized criminal court in Aden, which lacks jurisdiction over press-related offences.

Sallam said there was no justice for journalist Maher since the security services had disregarded the law. Not only is he being prevented from presenting evidence and responding to the charges against him, but he is also being denied the chance to hire a lawyer and meet with his family. The public prosecutor has not received the case file within the legally required time frame. All these things point to the inaccuracy of the investigative authority and the evidence collection.

As of the end of December 2022, no trial hearing had been held, and the lawyer blamed this on the security and judicial authorities. The court and the management of Bir Ahmed jail postponed Maher's case four times in the span of two weeks for various reasons, including a lack of gasoline for the prison van used to transport the inmates. A growing concern, according to the lawyer, is that convicts are not being brought from their different jails in time for their planned court dates because security agencies are stubborn about their cases and refuse to cooperate with the judicial system. Because of this, the court system has been performing poorly in recent times, with proceedings taking longer than necessary and many cases remaining unresolved, resulting in greater suf-

fering for both prisoners and their loved ones.

The security forces in Aden wouldn't turn over journalist Ahmed Maher to the courts though he has been in detention for five whole months as of the end of December 2022. The President of the Presidential Council ordered to speed up the inquiry into the arrest case. Still, they insisted on skirting the law and imprisoning him without trial. The Aden Chief Prosecutor has also committed to handing over the case file to the judicial system.

Human rights groups, both local and international, concerned with free speech have issued several demands, including a quick investigation into Maher's case or his release. Because of this, Maher's case was sent to the specialized criminal court, which does not have authority over issues involving the press. The initial hearing was supposed to take place on December 14, 2022, but it was delayed since the defendants could not be located in time. The original session date of December 19 was cancelled, and new dates of December 21 and December 26 were chosen.



Abbad Qaid Al-Jaradi (Sports journalist)

- **Type of violation:** Arrest
- **Place of Arrest:** Sanaa
- **Date of incident:** October 1, 2022
- **Perpetrator:** Houthi Group (Ansar Allah)
- **Status of Journalist:** Released

Sports journalist and Al-Wahda Sana'a Club media officer Abbad Al-Jaradi was abducted from his residence on October 1 by armed Houthi «Ansar Allah» supporters and has not been heard from or seen since. He was denied the right to contact his loved ones or select a legal representative. Because of his job in the media, he was held in isolation for 18 days while receiving threats and psychological torment.

Al-Jaradi is a journalist who has been arrested before. On June 18th, 2018, he was arrested, and after more than five months in jail, he was finally released. He was locked in a tiny cell for 77 days without food, visits, or medical care. He was in such bad shape that they let him go.



Ahd Saleh Al-Kharisan (Journalist)

- **Type of violation:** Arrest
- **Place of Arrest:** Lahj
- **Date of incident:** August 16, 2022
- **The Perpetrator of the Violation:** Yemeni Government

Journalist Ahd Al-Kharisan has written for many outlets, including the Sama News website. Because of his work in the media, soldiers from the security administration of the Lahj Governorate arrested him and beat him.

We questioned writer Al-Kharisan ⁵, who told us, «On August 6th, while I was in one of the markets in the Al-Houta district of Lahj Governorate, security personnel assaulted me and for-

5 - The interview with journalist Al-Kharisan took place on September 22nd, 2022.

cibly took me from the market.» I was thrown in jail and told I couldn't get out until I promised to stop writing."

He elaborated, saying, «They physically assaulted me, using their hands and legs to beat me while hurling insults and profanities.» They humiliated me in front of the crowd, bundled me into an FJ car, and drove me to the Al-Houta district security center. There, they continued their beatings on me.

I was intimidated not to write again against the director of the district, and they requested that I sign an agreement not to write,» Al-Kharisan adds. After I said no, I spent four days in a detention center where I was not allowed to contact anyone or have anyone see me. There is no reason for any of these illegal acts, and they all violate my rights. After being arbitrarily detained for four days, I was forced to sign a non-publication and non-criticism agreement before being freed.

A blue-toned portrait of Anwar Al-Sharif, a man with dark hair, wearing a suit and tie, set against a background of blue ink splatters.

Anwar Al-Sharif (Journalist)

- **Profession/Place of Work:** Journalist and photojournalist
- **Violation Type:** Arrest
- **Date of Incident:** May 29, 2022
- **The Perpetrator of the Violation:** The National Resistance Forces on the West Coast
- **Journalist's Current Condition:** Released

On May 29, the command of the “National Resistance Forces on the West Coast” arrested Anwar Al-Sharif (journalist and photojournalist) and detained him in Abu Musa Al-Ash’ari camp in Al-Khokha district (west of

Yemen) for three days without legal grounds before he was released. The arrest was based on charges of filming one of the military zones of the resistance forces using his filming plane (drone).

This arrest took place although Al-Sharif was in the company of the Director General of the Culture Office of the local authority in Al Hodeidah Governorate, working on a press content about one of the ancient mosques. On the second day of filming, Al-Sharif was summoned and asked, through the Governor of Hodeidah, Al-Hassan Taher, to report to the legal affairs of the National Resistance Forces on the West Coast where he was arrested and his press tools, camera and private car confiscated. Al-Sharif works as a photojournalist for several media outlets. He also participated in covering the military confrontations on the West Coast fronts.

Cases of detention

In 2022, there were a total of 9 instances in which journalists were detained; in each case, they were eventually released. Some of them were only released after undertaking not to publish anything critical of the government, its officials, or other powerful people.

NO	Name of Journalist	Type of Violation	Date of Violation	Governorate	Current situation
1	Abdulqawi Al-Uzaibi	Detention	Feb 6, 2022	Lahj	released
2	Rabei Al-Junaid	Detention	Jan 7, 2022	Sana'a	released
3	Yasser Al-Miyasi	Detention	Feb 14, 2022	Taiz	released
4	Yasser Mansour	Detention	May 23, 2022	Lahj	released
5	Ibrahim Al-Juhaidabi	Detention	June 28, 2022	Ma'rib	released
6	Mishaal Al-Khabaji	Detention	Aug 18, 2022	Aden	released
7	Raed Al-Ghazali	Detention	Aug 28, 2022	Lahj	released
8	Emad Al-Masri	Detention	Aug 25, 2022	Ma'rib	released
9	Ahd Saleh Ali	Detention	Aug 9, 2022	Lahj	released

Yasser Mansour Al-Miyasi



- **Occupation:** Editor-in-Chief of Sama News newspaper and website
- **Type of violation:** Detention
- **Place of Arrest:** Lahj
- **Date of incident:** May 23, 2022
- **The Perpetrator of the Violation:** Al-Hawta Security Administration, Lahj Governorate

- **Journalist's Current Condition:** Released

The security administration of Al-Hawta in the Lahj Governorate arrested journalist Yasser Mansour on May 23, 2022, after he published pieces revealing corruption in an agricultural project in the governorate.

Speaking of what happened to him, Al-Miyasi explained ⁶, «On May 12, 2022, I made a Facebook post addressing corruption connected to the sale of agricultural lands and their conversion into residential zones, which had a severe impact on the agriculture industry. I brought up corruption among engineers as well. After the community and government became aware of the problem, one of the responsible engineers was arrested, and the project was suspended because of its impact on farmland.

He added, «A few days after the publication, precisely on May 23, around 10:00 a.m., I was arrested by the director of Al-Hawta security together with his men in military uniforms. I was seized from the Health Office (now the Governorate Office) and held in Al-Hawta Police Station for 10 days without any prior notification or authorization from the prosecution.»

Al-Miyasi ended his speech by adding, «After pressure from civil society, social media activists, and human rights organizations calling for my release and my family's pursuit to refer me to the prosecution, I was released on bail.» Currently, I am under investigation for a defamation case against an engineer, even though I didn't mention any specific names in my post.»



Abdulqawi Al-Azibi

- **Occupation:** Correspondent for "Al-Amana" News Agency
- **Type of violation:** Detention
- **Date of incident:** Feb 6, 2022
- **The Perpetrator of the Violation:** Yemeni government
- **Journalist's Current Condition:** Released after 6 hours

6 - The MARSADAK team interviewed journalist Al-Miyasi on June 6th, 2022.

Abdul Qawi Al-Uzeibi, a journalist, was illegally and unjustifiably detained by the guards of the Lahj governorate office, on Sunday afternoon, February 6. Al-Uzaibi works as a reporter for «Al-Umana» News, and previously held the position of Deputy Director General of the Information Office in Lahj Governorate. Then he assumed the position of Chairman of the Community Committee for Electricity in Lahj, appointed by Lahj Governor, Ahmed Al-Turki.

He was detained while crossing the gate of the health office building and transferred on board one of the vans to the detention center of the governorate office.

The MARSADAK contacted Al-Uzeibi ⁷, after his release, who said: "While I was leaving my workplace in the governorate's office around noon and at the gate, I was stopped by the commander of the guards of the governorate building without giving reasons or citing any criminal act. When asked about the reasons for my detention, he said that he had verbal orders and directives from the Governor of Lahj, Ahmed Al-Turki, to arrest me. Guards brought me to the central prison, which was temporarily housed in the same building, but the deputy director refused to retain me without a warrant. I remained in a room inside the prison until sunset, when I was released after mediation with the commander of the Giants Brigades, Hamdi Shoukry, and thanks to several contacts".

Al-Uzeibi added, «Until this moment, I do not know the reasons for restricting my freedom and detaining me. I have worked in the governorate office for about a year and a half before I submitted my resignation as a reporter for the Al-Umana News.»

The deprivation of the right to personal safety, or giving judicial orders or absence of a crime punishable by law is a violation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, national laws, the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights, and other rights recognized by Yemen through its ratification of international conventions.

7 - The MARSADAK team interviewed Al-Uzeibi, on March 29, 2022.



Emad Al-Masri (Media Photographer)

- **Type of violation:** Detention
- **Place of detention:** Ma'rib
- **Date of incident:** August 25, 2022
- **Perpetrator:** Yemeni government

Media photographer Emad Al-Masri was detained at the military police headquarters in the city of Ma'rib while filming a television report for an international channel on the role of women. He was released after signing a written pledge not to film without obtaining prior official permission.

According to Al-Masri, in our interview ⁸, «after filming one of the events in Ma'rib Governorate for a short television report for the BBC channel on the role of women in society – specifically the role of women in Ma'rib,» he was confronted by a soldier in uniform who demanded his phone. He only asked for my phone and showed no interest in my press pass, camera, or the content of my video. I showed him my press card and explained that I was a journalist working on a television report, so I wouldn't give him my phone. Then he made a report on me, and the soldiers showed up to arrest me. While riding in the military vehicle, I called the security director's media secretary. The military grabbed my phone, and I lost the chance to finish my call to the press secretary.

When we got to the military police headquarters, I was kept all day long until they finally let me go «after I signed a written pledge not to film without permission.»

8 - Al-Masri was interviewed on August 27, 2022.



Rabie Al-Junaid (Journalist)

- **Profession/Place of Work:** Journalist
- **Type of Violation:** Detention
- **Date of Incident:** January 8, 2022
- **The Perpetrator of the Violation:** The Houthi group (Ansar Allah).
- **Journalist's Current Condition:** Released

Rabie Al-Junaid (journalist) was detained for publishing information about medical errors that led to the death of patients. The Yemeni Press and Publications Prosecution summoned Al-Junaid and held him in detention on January 8, 2022. He was released the next day on bail. The case is still in court until writing the report.



Mishaal Al-Khubaji (journalist)

- **Profession/Place of Work:** Journalist for the Ministry of Transport
- **Type of Violation:** Threat
- **Date of Incident:** Feb 1, 2022
- **The Perpetrator of the Violation:** The General Authority for Regulating Land Transport Affairs

Mishaal Al-Khubaji ⁹ (journalist) was harassed, threatened, and his contract with the General Authority for Regulating Land Transport Affairs was suspended. On February 6, 2022, the charge affairs of the authority, Ali Haidara Mahrouqi, issued an administrative order to arbitrarily dismiss Al-Khubaji on the background of his writing about financial corruption cases in the authority and the Ministry of Transport.

These practices, and many others, are increasing day after day against journalists and others who address or write about corruption in state institutions, although the validity of the published information is supported

by official numbers and documents. "It is a state secret that should not be disclosed, and people should not know it," stated Al-Khubaji.



Raed Al-Ghazali – Journalist

- **Journalist- Tomorrow Aden**
- **Violation type:** Detention
- **Detention area:** Lahj
- **Detention date:** 28th Aug, 2022
- **Detaining body:** Yemeni Government

A military unit detained journalist Raed Al-Ghazali in one of the hotels in Lahj Province. He was released from Al-Qita'a Camp Prison, affiliated with the Fifth Brigade, Radfan, a day later. This is the fourth time to detain

the journalist concerning his journalistic activities. Journalist Al-Ghazali ¹⁰ told 4 the Observatory team that on Saturday

9 - The interview with journalist Al-Khubaji took place on August 28, 2022.

10 - The interview with journalist Al-Ghazali took place on August 30, 2022.

27th August, he was attending a training course in a hotel in Al-Hubilian when a group of military soldiers, affiliated with the Fifth Brigade, Radfan, instructed him to follow them to the Al-Qita'a Camp. They added that it was the orders of the commander Mukhtar Al-Nobi. I agreed to go and upon arriving in the camp they detained me in the camp for one day without any charges or investigation or justification.

Journalist Al-Ghazali was not subject to any investigation owing to the absence of any legal justification. Al-Ghazali is active on social media, which has made him the subject of arrests. This was the fourth time he was detained without any obvious reason.

Assault cases

Field reporting in Yemen is a risky adventure, as journalists face hostile behavior on a daily basis. Physical and verbal attacks on journalists are common, and many people in the field may even take their equipment away from them.

We review below those assaults against journalists during the first half of 2022.

NO	Journalist's name	Violation type	Violation date	Governorate
1	Khalil Al-Taweel	Assault	01/03/2022	Ma'rib
2	Ali Al-Taweel	Assault	01/03/2022	Ma'rib
3	Abeer Abdullah	Assault	28/05/2022	Taiz
4	Wahb Al-Din Al-Awadi	Assault	28/05/2022	Taiz
5	Abdullah Al Humairi	Assault	28/05/2022	Taiz
6	Anwar Al-Hauri	Assault	19/04/2022	Ma'rib
7	Abdul Hakim Al-Madda	Assault	05/04/2022	Taiz
8	Harith Humaid	Assault	10/03/2022	Sana'a
9	Abdul Khaliq Omran	Assault	10/03/2022	Sana'a
10	Tawfiq Al-Mansouri	Assault	10/03/2022	Sana'a
11	Abdul Aleem Dahlan	Assault	26/05/2022	Mar'ib
12	Fouad Al-Majidi	Assault	26/05/2022	Mar'ib
13	Hisham Al-Shabili	Assault	08/06/2022	Mar'ib
14	Abu Bakr Hussein	Assault	05/06/2022	Shabwa
15	Amer Al-Amri	Assault	29/09/2022	Taiz
16	Khalil Al-Taweel	Assault	25/12/2022	Mar'ib
17	Ali Al-Jaradi	Assault	25/12/2022	Mar'ib
18	Mohammed Ali Mahrous	Assault	26/12/2022	Taiz
19	Saleh Al-Hasani	Assault	25/12/2022	Taiz



Khalil Al-Taweel

- **Affiliation:** Balqees TV, Ma'rib
- **Type of violation:** Assault
- **Date of incident:** December 25, 2022
- **Perpetrator:** Yemeni government



Ali Al-Jaradi

- **Affiliation:** Balqees TV, Ma'rib
- **Type of violation:** Assault
- **Date of incident:** December 25, 2022
- **Perpetrator:** Yemeni government

An armed group assaulted the Balqees TV channel crew in Ma'rib, including Khalil Al-Taweel and Ali Al-Jaradi, on military vehicles in the city of Ma'rib.

The MARSADAK team reached out to journalist Ali Al-Jaradi, who confirmed ¹¹ that he and his colleague Khalil Al-Taweel were assaulted on the afternoon of December 25, 2022, by armed individuals in civilian clothing aboard two military patrols. The attackers brandished weapons at the channel's crew, used

11 - Al-Jaradi was interviewed on December 26, 2022.

offensive language towards them, and attempted to arrest them, despite being aware of their journalistic identity.

The crew of the channel has been subjected to multiple attacks and harassment by security forces and armed individuals. While conducting their work in the city in March 2022, an armed group attacked journalist Khalil Al-Taweel and his team. They were prevented from filming in Al-Sehha Intersection while working on a television report about development during times of war. Al-Taweel said, "While filming, we were stopped by three people in civilian clothes who asked for our ID cards and licenses which we showed. We inquired about their identity and which party they belonged to, but then they assaulted us and attempted to rob our equipment. At that time, a few civilians at the scene of the incident intervened and took them to one of the city's departments, which in turn released them without any interrogation or action against them. This forced the crew to file another report with the Al-Salam Police Department, which led to the armed individuals. They apologized to the channel crew".



Abdullah Al-Humairi (photojournalist)

- **Profession/Place of Work:** Freelance photojournalist - Taiz
- **Type of Violation:** Assault
- **Date of Incident:** May 28, 2022
- **The Perpetrator of the Violation:** influential individuals



Wahb Al-Din Al-Awadi (journalist)

- **Profession/Place of Work:**
- Freelance
- **photojournalist - Taiz**
- **Type of Violation: Assault**
- **Date of Incident:** May 28, 2022
- **The Perpetrator of the Violation:** influential individuals



Abeer Abdullah (journalist)

- **Profession/Place of Work:**
- Freelance
- **journalist - Taiz**
- **Type of Violation: Assault**
- **Date of Incident:** May 28, 2022
- **The Perpetrator of the Violation:** influential Individuals

In the morning of May 28, 2022, three journalists in Taiz governorate (Abeer Abdullah, Wahb Al-Din Al-Awadi and Abdullah Al-Hamairi) were assaulted and shot by armed men in civilian clothes in the center of Taiz.

The journalists confirmed to the MARSADAK 9 that they were attacked and directly shot by gunmen, in the Salh Humaira area in the center of Taiz while filming press material for one of the satellite channels.

Journalist Abeer Abdullah said, "We were attacked for no apparent reason, despite the prior coordination with the concerned authorities and social figures in the area to work on filming an interview and footage

with one of the residents of the area, in the presence of the neighborhood head, but the gunmen attacked us and demanded our immediate departure."

MARSADAK¹² contacted the neighborhood head who confirmed the assault and explained that, on the following day, he and the journalists filed a complaint against the gunmen at Salh Police Station, but the perpetrators were not arrested.



Hesham Al-Shabili

- **Occupation:** Correspondent for Independent Arabia
- **Type of violation:** Assault
- **Place of violation:** Ma'rib
- **Date of incident:** June 8, 2022
- **Perpetrator:** Yemeni government

Hisham Al-Shabili, a reporter and correspondent for Independent Arabia newspaper, was assaulted by members of the security forces in Ma'rib Governorate while filming violations near a gas station in the city. The gas station was illegally filling some cars and not respecting the long queues of citizens waiting for their turn.

Al-Shabili informed the MARSADAK team¹³ that while he was documenting the violations near the petrol station, he was attacked, detained, and had his phone confiscated by the security personnel in the area, who also deleted the recorded data, as proven to the monitoring team. He said that several soldiers

12 - The interview with journalist Abeer took place on May 30, 2022.

13 - Al-Shabili was interviewed on December 29, 2022.

had ambushed his car out of nowhere and dragged him up onto the roof of one of the military vehicles where he remained there for over three hours. After that, they attempted to transport him to the security headquarters, but the personnel there refused to receive him without a report detailing their investigation and the reasons for their detention.

A portrait of Mohamed Ali Mahrous, a man with short dark hair, wearing a dark shirt. The portrait is set against a background of blue splatters and a faint cityscape. The portrait is partially enclosed by a blue circular graphic element.

Mohamed Ali Mahrous

- **Occupation:** reporter - Taiz
- **Type of violation:** Assault
- **Date of incident:** December 26, 2022
- **Perpetrator:** Yemeni government

On December 26, 2022, soldiers linked with the Traffic Police in the city of Taiz assaulted Mohammed Ali Mahrous¹⁴ (reporter), stole his phone, and attempted to arrest him. He was doing work near the provincial General Traffic Administration when the tragedy took place.

Mahrous states, «I saw a soldier abuse an elderly truck driver while on assignment on Traffic Street in Taiz, close to the Taiz Traffic Administration. I talked kindly to the soldier, explaining that his mission required him to treat citizens with respect and decency. But the soldier's response was a shower of foul language and insults. He, then, dispatched an armed man in civil clothes to follow me on the other side of the street. He dragged me to the square, took my phone, and assaulted me. One of the Traffic soldiers had been verbally abusing me the whole time, prompting the others to join in

14 - The interview with journalist Mohammed Mahrous took place on December 28, 2022

Threat cases

Both in government-controlled and Houthi-controlled areas of Yemen, many journalists are threatened or harassed for their work in the media. This tendency seriously compromises press freedom.

NO	Journalist's name	Violation type	Violation date	Governorate
1	Mashaal Al-Khabji	Threat	01/02/2022	Aden
2	Ali Awwaida	Threat	10/02/2022	Ma'rib
3	Omar Abdulaziz Al-Murshid	Threat	11/02/2022	Sana'a
4	Bassam Al-Ban	Threat	04/03/2022	Aden
5	Wiam Al-Soufi	Threat	26/04/2022	Taiz
6	Nasser Humaid	Threat	30/05/2022	Hadramout
7	Fathi Bin Lazraq	Threat	23/06/2022	Aden
8	Nabiha Al-Haidari	Threat	19/06/2022	Aden
9	Salah Al-Afeef	Threat	13/08/2022	Taiz
10	Mohammed Abdulmalik	Threat	25/08/2022	Aden
11	Fouad MUSAAD Dhaif Allah	Threat	10/09/2022	Aden
12	Salah Abdullah Ghalib	Threat	15/11/2022	Lahj
13	Nabil Al-Sharabi	Threat	27/11/ 2022	Sana'a



Ali Oweida (journalist)

- **Profession/place of work:** Anadolu Agency correspondent in Yemen
- **Type of Violation:** Threat
- **Date of Incident:** Febr 10, 2022
- **The Perpetrator of the Violation:** Influential individuals

Ali Oweidah, Anadolu Agency correspondent in Yemen, received a death threat on the ground of publishing information about corruption in the oil and gas sector in the Ma'rib Governorate run by influential parties.

Oweidah ¹⁵, told us 10 that he had received notifications from people on the social networking site "Facebook" about a plan against his life by influential parties in the oil and gas sector, on the background of publishing information about corruption and nepotism in the sector. He added that this threat is the most serious in a series of responses and comments that call on him to refrain from talking about such corruption.



Fuad Mosaid

- **Anadolu Agency correspondent**
- **Violation type:** threat
- **Threat area:** Aden
- **Threat date:** 10th September, 2022
- **Perpetuating body:** Yemeni Government

15 - The interview with journalist Oweidah took place on February 12, 2022.

The National Southern Media Authority in Aden Province prevented journalist Fuad Mosaid ¹⁶ from appearing in a live broadcast on the pretext that he was among the list of prohibited people from being interviewed.

The Authority requires the media to obtain prior permits for each journalist or other person before appearing in an intervention on TV. Our team contacted the journalist Mosaid and he confirmed "On the evening of Tuesday, 6th September, one of the Arabic-speaking BBC coordinators contacted him and asked him to participate in an interview on the latest developments and the interview would be at 8:00 pm, Yemeni local time, which was the time of the news bulletin." Mosaid added, "I arrived at the broadcast office of the private company, and shortly before the interview took place, the coordinator asked me to wait a little while and went out. He made a call to someone, the content of which I have no clue. Later, he came to apologize that he couldn't make the interview since my name was listed as one of the people who are prohibited from being interviewed. I asked him which authority had banned me. He said that the decision was made by the National Southern Media Authority. He added: It was not you alone on the list; there are others too."

The Media Freedom Observatory provides support to journalists and workers in media institutions who face psychological pressure while practicing their profession. The support includes psychological counseling as well as direct psychological support sessions through psychologists.

[Click here](#) To access psychological support

<https://tinyurl.com/48pd7smt>

16 - The interview with journalist Mosaid took place on September 18, 2022.

A portrait of Salah Abdullah Ghalib, a man with a beard and a white cap, wearing a light-colored shirt. The portrait is set against a blue background with splatter effects. To the right of the portrait is a blue rounded rectangle containing his name and a list of details.

Salah Abdullah Ghalib

- **Occupation:** journalist -almushahid.net
- **Type of violation:** Threat
- **Date of incident:** November 15, 2022
- **Perpetrator:** Unknown

Salah Abdullah Ghalib, a journalist and correspondent for the almushahid.net news website, was the target of anonymous threats sent via WhatsApp. The messages accused him of filming and spreading false news and misinformation about the clashes that took place between Ministry of Defense personnel and armed members of the Al-Humaida tribe in Wadi Ma'abak, Al-Maqatirah district, Lahj.

Similarly, journalist Bassam Al-Ban, the head of the Voice of the People news website and the general director of the Journalist Observer Network, received several threatening messages from an unknown person claiming to be affiliated with security entities in Aden governorate. Al-Ban has been threatened with being arrested and compromising his freedom if he continues to publish and write about issues relating to security leadership.

Silence dissent

In an attempt to silence dissent, cover up their practices, and withhold the truth from Yemeni and the international public opinion, all parties to the conflict in Yemen are severely undermining press freedom and freedom of expression in general. To say nothing of the expansion of their glorifying media and propaganda, the Houthi group has successfully muzzled independent media voices in places under their control.



Sana'a has witnessed public trials of activists on social media platforms in areas under the control of the Houthi group. These trials began on December 22, 2022, with the unlawful arrest of YouTuber Ahmed Hajjar by an armed group that intercepted him and forcibly took him by bus, where he was held in secret. A video he posted to YouTube the day before his arrest criticized the Houthi group's tactics, including the famine and suppression of freedoms being imposed by the group's leadership in the areas they control.



Mostafa Al-Mumari, Hamoud Al-Masbahi, and Ahmed Alaw were subsequently taken into custody outside of their homes and vanished without a trace. They were only allowed to leave prison when they apologized to the Houthi group and promised not to speak ill of the safety and quality of life in regions under their control.





Journalists trial

Journalists trial

In 2022, there were numerous violations, most notably the summoning and trial of 13 journalists by security authorities, prosecutors, and courts on accusations related to publication. These violations occurred primarily in Hadramawt, Sana'a, Aden, and Shabwa.

Each of these journalists was tried in a court with no jurisdiction over publishing and media cases. Instead, they faced prosecution by agencies tasked with countering terrorism and protecting national security.

Based on this sad history, Reporters Without Borders (RWB) ranks Yemen as one of the nations with the highest suppression of press freedom, placing it at 169th out of 180 in the 2022 World Press Freedom Index (WPI).

NO	Name of Journalist	Governorate
1	Nabil Al-Sadawi	Sana'a
2	Hala Badawi	Hadramout
3	Sabri Salmin Bin Makhshen	Hadramout
4	Obaid Wakad	Hadramout
5	Awad Kashmeem	Hadramout
6	Abdullah Al-Shadli	Hadramout
7	Adnan Al-Ajami	Hadramout
8	Sabri Salmin Bin Makhshen	Hadramout
9	Nasser Al-Kazimi	Aden
10	Ali Salmin Al-Awbaithani	Hadramout
11	Tarek Omar Basloum	Hadramout
12	Khalil Al-Omari	Sana'a
13	Omar Al-Har Basrada	Shabwa



Hala Badawi (journalist)

- **Type of violation:** Arrest and trial
- **Date of sentencing:** Dec 7, 2022
- **Date of release:** March 20, 2022
- **Perpetrator:** Yemeni government

The journalist Hala Badawi was subjected to arbitrary arrest, an unfair trial, and fabricated charges, along with the dissemination of videos to tarnish her reputation. It was the first time a female journalist had been arrested and tried for libel.


Over the course of her imprisonment over a hundred days, Hala Badawi was subjected to arbitrary incarceration, enforced disappearance, torture, and the dissemination of a video meant to smear her reputation. All of this took place just around the time she was being questioned by the public prosecution for the first time.

On December 30, 2021, Hala Badawi was arrested on the grounds of her journalistic work. This marked the beginning of her story. In defiance of laws and international conventions, she was first detained in the Military Intelligence Prison before being transported to the central prison. Her family was only allowed to visit her once while she was held on vague charges. Her house was searched, her family was threatened, and their phones were taken.

The first day of Hala Badawi's trial wasn't until March 23, 2022, about three months after her arrest. She was arrested on charges of endangering public safety. As far as we can tell, this is the first time a female journalist has been arrested on such serious allegations in Yemen. These accusations caused emotional and

human suffering for Hala Badawi and her loved ones.

The bail request for Hala Badawi was granted during the second trial hearing on March 29. She is required to attend all future trial hearings. Despite finishing all the legal procedures and providing the requisite guarantees for her participation at the remaining trial hearings, her release was delayed for more than 20 days.

A blue-toned portrait of Nabil Al-Sadawi, a man with short dark hair and a beard, wearing a light-colored shirt. The portrait is set against a background of blue ink splatters and is partially enclosed by a blue circular graphic element.

Nabil Al-Sadawi (journalist)

- **Place of work:** Director of the Yemeni News Agency, Saba - Sana'a
- **Type of Violation:** Arrest and Prosecution
- **Date of arrest:** Sep21, 2015
- **Ruling date:** Feb22, 2022
- **The Perpetrator of the Violation:** The Houthi group

Nabil Al-Sadawi, one of the journalists of the Yemeni news agency, Saba, in the capital, Sana'a, was arrested by the Houthi group on September 21, 2015, through the security and intelligence services (formerly Political Security). During his arrest, he faced enforced disappearance and physical and moral torture. Despite the Public Prosecution's directive to refer him to a doctor due to the pain he suffered in the back and lower spine as a result of the torture and beatings he faced, the prison management refrained from carrying out the order. Nearly four years after the arrest of Al-Sadawi, he was referred to the Specialized Criminal Prosecution (State Security), which is not concerned with press and publishing issues. The prosecution, in turn, referred him to the Criminal Court on July 2, 2019 in the session

held on February 22, 2022, the court convicted the journalist of the accusation of forming an armed gang and communicating with the aggression forces. He received a ruling of eight (8) year imprisonment and was ordered to be placed under police supervision for three years. The ruling also included a directive to the concerned authorities to rehabilitate him culturally, behaviorally, intellectually, and educationally in cooperation with the Zakat and Endowments Authority.

According to the testimony of the lawyer of the detained journalists, Abdul Majeed Sabra, the clause: "rehabilitating him culturally, behaviorally, intellectually and educationally in cooperation with the Zakat and Endowments Authority" is one of the oddest clauses of the ruling that Judge Muhammad Mufleh is keen to pronounce in many of his rulings despite its violation of the judiciary norms, the constitution, and the law. Moreover, it is connected to the nature of the political work of the Houthi group, which requires many segments of Yemeni society to take cultural and religious courses to implant the group's beliefs and ideas in the community."



Obeid Waked (journalist)

- **Profession/Place of Work:** Journalist - Hadramout
- **Type of Violation:** Trial
- **Date of Incident:** May 30, 2022
- **The Perpetrator of the Violation:** Yemen Oil Company, Hadramout Coast Branch

Obeid ¹⁷ Waked is one of the journalists whose publishing case is still pending before the judiciary in Hadhramaut governorate. Obeid said ¹², "I was summoned by the criminal investigation in the city of Mukalla on May 30, 2022, in a publishing case brought against me by the Yemeni Oil Company, the Hadhramaut Coast Branch, because of a previous post of mine. After completing the investigation, the director of criminal investigation in the Hadramout Security Department issued an order to arrest and detain me in prison with no legal grounds. Although I was interrogated and attended the investigations in accordance with the law, I was detained for more than 10 hours before being released on bail thanks to the pressure exercised by public opinion, journalists, activists, and officials. Obeid added: "On June 9, 2022, the criminal investigation submitted my case to the Public Funds Prosecution who interrogated me and listened to my statements in two investigative sessions. The case is still pending before the Public Funds Prosecution until now."

Legal support

Through a group of lawyers who are ready to defend journalists, MARSADAK provides all kinds of legal support to journalists and media personnel who are subjected to violations and harassment in connection with their journalistic work. Legal support includes providing legal advice related to carrying out the press duties and in case journalists face legal issues in addition to allocating a lawyer in cases pending against journalists before the courts.

**Click here to submit a
request for legal support.**

<https://marsadak.org/assistance-1/>

17 - The interview with journalist Obeid took place on June 13, 2022.



Adnan Al-Ajam (journalist)

- **Journalist, Al-Omana newspaper**
- **Violation type:** trial
- **Threat area:** Aden
- **Threat date:** 6th Sep, 2022
- **Perpetuating body:** Yemeni Government

The Sira Public Prosecution Office in Aden summoned journalist Adnan Al-Ajam, editor-in-chief of Al-Omana newspaper, in regard to the complaint filed by Aden Province Deputy Ghassan Al-Zamki. The complaint concerns a publication case about financial irregularities in the expenditures of government projects.

Our team ¹⁸ contacted the journalist 7, who confirmed his interrogation by the First Instance Prosecution of Sira in connection with an opinion article written months ago about financial irregularities in the expenditures of government projects. In the hearing session, journalist Al-Ajam defended his position and accuracy of his writing. Meanwhile, a number of journalists gathered in the courtyard of the prosecution in conjunction with the session, declaring their solidarity with the journalist. Two weeks later, the case was resolved amicably after the intervention of the governor of Aden Province, Ahmed Lamlas.

18 - The interview with journalist Al-Ajam took place on September 18, 2022.



The Specialized Criminal Court of First Instance in Mukalla, the capital of Hadhramaut Province, in the east of the country, summoned journalist Sabri Salmeen bin Makhashin to attend a session scheduled for 21st September, 2022 against the background of publication cases. We contacted ¹⁹ journalist Makhashin 8 who confirmed that he was surprised to receive a request to attend the trial session on 21st September, 2022. For him, it goes against the promises made by the new Hadhramaut governor Mabhout Bin Madi to protect media freedom and to abolish all sentences and cases against journalists. After Mukhashin's lawyer attended the session, he was allowed to photograph the case file. Mukhashin was being tried in absentia. The trial was

postponed to the 24th of October to allow him to present his defense. Sabri bin Makhashin is a journalist who has been arrested and subjected to a lot of harassment and prosecutions against the background of his journalistic writings. He eventually managed to escape from Hadhramaut Province where he was arrested and imprisoned in 2018 for two months in solitary confinement for his journalistic writings. After his exit from Yemen, the authorities reported him as a fugitive and requested his arrest via the Interpol.

19 - The interview with journalist Mukhashin took place on September 26, 2022.

Media Outlets

no	Media organization	Type	Governorate	Violation type	Perpetrator	Current situation
1	Voice of Yemen FM	Radio	Sana'a	Break-in and stopping broadcasting	The Houthi group	still off
2	Grand FM	Radio	Sana'a	Break-in and stopping broadcasting	The Houthi group	Broadcast has been resumed
3	First FM	Radio	Sana'a	Break-in and stopping broadcasting	The Houthi group	Broadcast has been resumed
4	Al-Diwan FM	Radio	Sana'a	Break-in and stopping broadcasting	The Houthi group	Broadcast has been resumed
5	Community Childhood FM	Radio	Sana'a	Break-in and stopping broadcasting	The Houthi group	Broadcast has been resumed
6	Delta FM	Radio	Sana'a	Break-in and stopping broadcasting	The Houthi group	Broadcast has been resumed
7	Alwan FM	Radio	Ibb	Break-in and stopping broadcasting	The Houthi group	Broadcast has been resumed
8	Yemen Music	Radio	Ibb	Break-in and stopping broadcasting	The Houthi group	Broadcast has been resumed
9	Samara FM	Radio	Father	Break-in and stopping broadcasting	The Houthi group	Broadcast has been resumed
10	Yemen Youth	Satellite channel	Taiz	Break in and assault	Influential parties	The broadcast has not stopped
11	Yemeni Journalists Syndicate in Aden	Media organization	Aden	Break-in	Yemeni government	They left the building
12	International Media Agency	Media office	Aden	Harassment and restricting the freedom of journalistic work.	Yemeni government	The ban is still ongoing
13	IBS	Media office	Aden		Yemeni government	
14	Yemen Digital Media	Media office	Aden		Yemeni government	The ban is still ongoing
15	RT (Russia Today) channel	Space channel	Aden		Yemeni government	The ban is still ongoing
16	Al-Hurra channel	Space channel	Aden		Yemeni government	The ban is still ongoing
17	BBC Channel	Space channel	Aden		Yemeni government	The ban is still ongoing

Both private and community radio stations in Houthi-controlled territories encounter a number of challenges, most notably security threats such as intimidation of arrest, closure and confiscation. On top of that, the radio stations face additional challenges represented by inadequate services such as electricity, the Internet, and etc.

Nine local radio stations in Sana'a and Ibb, controlled by the Houthi group, were subject to arbitrary attacks and cessation of broadcast in an effort to restrict freedom of opinion and expression. As a result of that, ten radio stations were unjustifiably required to pay financial sums and levies for several reasons. These stations are Voice of Yemen, Grand Radio Station FM, Dewan Radio, Community Childhood Radio, Awla FM Radio, Delta FM Radio, Yemen Music Radio, and Samara FM Radio.

It is known that Houthi-controlled territories have become devoid of independent, partisan, or private radio stations with the exception of those radio stations that comply with the political guidelines and directives of the Houthi group.

The Media Freedoms Observatory obtained a video that showed the initial minutes when armed men stormed into radio stations illegally, spraying paint on the CCTV camera to conceal their action.

Radio station managers in Houthi-controlled territories assert that they are working hard to obtain licenses from the Ministry of Information. However, the Ministry puts hurdles purposefully to restrict their broadcast despite the total compliance of the radio stations with the directives of the Houthi group which forces the radio stations to broadcast weekly, unified, binding programs against the so-called Aggression.

These radio stations are susceptible to harassment for broadcasting songs. They are forced to broadcast Houthi Zawamel, chants written and sung to mobilize the populace and provoke violence and hatred.

New restrictions on media outlets in Aden

In Aden, new regulations have been put in the media. The National Media Authority of Southern Yemen, with headquarters in Aden and ties to the secessionist Southern Transitional Council, has issued a directive to broadcast offices contracted with Arab and international media channels, providing them with a list of Yemeni individuals, including banned journalists, who are prohibited from being hosted on these channels through these offices.

Broadcast companies were required to give the authority ample time before airing to review the names of guests who would be hosted on their networks. The authority may grant or deny such requests at its discretion.

We have evidence of rejections based on these guidelines, including the barring of journalist Fuad Mas'ad from appearing in a broadcast interview on BBC Arabic.

The media outlets and their correspondents are subject to oversight by the regulatory body. Journalistic coverage and the preparation of reports on political, economic, and humanitarian aspects are prohibited without the authority's permission on channels like RT (Russia Today), Al-Hurra, and BBC, as well as media companies like International Media Agency, AP (Associated Press), and Yemen Digital Media.

These media outlets were also prohibited from covering the military events that took place in Shabwa in August between government forces and forces aligned with the Southern Transitional Council and the Giants Brigades.

UNA Company, Aden Al-Mustaqbal Channel, Al-Ghad Al-Mashreq Channel, and other media outlets linked with the Southern Transitional Council have been given permission to provide on-the-ground coverage by the regulatory authorities.

In recent times, restrictions on Aden's independent and non-aligned media have been tightened. This has gradually led to the establishment of a unified trend across the city's media outlets. International organizations recognize Aden as the legitimate government headquarters of Yemen during its interim status as the country's capital.

The State Security Court in Sana'a, which is under the control of the Houthi group, sentenced four journalists, Abdulkhaleq Omran, Harith Humaid, Tawfiq Al Mansouri, and Akram Al-Walidi, to death on the grounds of their journalistic work on June 9, 2015. The sentence was issued in violation of international laws and the International Human Rights Law.



The four journalists suffered the worst abuses, including torture and enforced disappearance. The first hearing was held on December 9, 2019, four years after their arrest. Due to the statements of several lawyers and journalists about attending the hearing, the second hearing of the trial of the journalists was held without their presence on January 6, 2020, and was adjourned. The third hearing was held on January 27, 2020, and the fourth took place on February 17, 2020. However, it was adjourned due to the absence of a representative from the prosecution. On March 9, 2020, the fifth hearing was held, during which the journalists' case was referred for sentencing. For their journalism, the court, in its sixth session on April 11, 2020, sentenced Abdulkhaleq Omran, Akram Al-Walidi, Harith Humaid, and Tawfiq Al Mansouri to death. Hisham Tarmoum, Hisham Al-Yousifi, Haitham Raweh, Issam Balghaith, Hassan Annab, and Salah Al-Qa'edi were all found guilty and given the same sentence. The MARSADAK documented testimonies confirming that the trial was conducted unlawfully, lacking basic legal standards and procedures commonly observed in investigations and court sessions. Many, if not most, journalists did not have frequent access to their solicitors during the trial, with the exception of brief contacts before and after the investigation and trial phases, which also involved risk.

Journalists and media foundations have been prosecuted

No	Name	Entity's name	lawsuit against him	Governorate	Trial started date
1	Yasser Mansoor	Attorney West Lahij	defamation	Lahj	20 May 2022
2	Halah Badhawi	Specialized Criminal Prosecution	disturbs the public peace	Hadramawt	31 Jan 2022
3	Abdulkhaleq Emran	Specialized Criminal Appeals Division	Rumoring false news and disturbs the public peace	Sana'a	9 Dec 2019
4	Hareth Humaid	Specialized Criminal Appeals Division	Rumoring false news and disturbs the public peace	Sana'a	9 Dec 2019
5	Tawfeeq Almansory	Specialized Criminal Appeals Division	Rumoring false news and disturbs the public peace	Sana'a	9 Dec 2019
6	Akram Alwaledi	Specialized Criminal Appeals Division	Rumoring false news and disturbs the public peace	Sana'a	9 Dec 2019
7	Obaid Waked	Public Funds Court	Insult Public Facility	Hadramawt	8 June 2021
8	Mohammed Alyazedi	Public Funds Court	Incitement and disturbs the public peace	Hadramawt	14 Oct 2020
9	Awadh Kashmem	Hadramawt Court of appeal	Incitement and disturbs the public peace	Hadramawt	14 May 2019
10	Sabri Salmeen Ibn Mkhashen	Specialized Criminal Prosecution	Incitement and disturbs the public peace	Hadramawt	6 April 2019
11	Naser Alkazmei	Public Funds Prosecutor's office	Press and Publications Procurator's Office	Aden	24 Nov 2022
12	Ali Salmin Al-Awithani	Public Funds Prosecutor's office	Defamation of a scientific statement	Hadramawt	19 Dec 2022
13	Tareq Omar Baslom	Public Funds Prosecutor's office	Defamation of a scientific statement	Hadramawt	11 Dec 2022

Journalists detained despite the expiration of their judicial sentences

Mohammed Abdu Al-Salahi

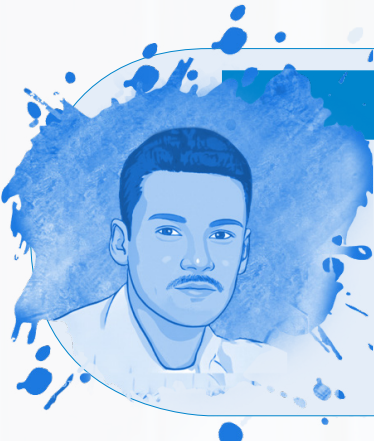


- **Date of Arrest:**
October 21, 2018
- **Date of sentence:**
June 28, 2022

Journalist Mohammed Al-Salahi had been sentenced to three years and eight months in prison by a specialized criminal court in Al Hudeidah, but the Houthi group has failed to carry out the sentence and free him, despite the fact that it has expired. On October 20, 2018, the Houthi group swooped in on the office of the media company "Mega Pixel" where Al-Salahi works and arrested him. He vanished without a trace for five whole months. Al-Salahi remained incarcerated in the Political Security Prison in Al-Hudeidah alongside journalist Bilal Al-Arifi, who was released after being held for two years.

Al-Salahi was interrogated for five to six hours a day for the first three months of his detention. He was beaten, suspended from the ceiling with iron chains, and even had a blow to the testicles, leaving them swollen for two months. The journalist Mohammed Al-Salahi's trial failed to meet the most fundamental requirements of due process. The prosecution and the criminal court in Sana'a and Al-Hudeidah participated in his secret trial, which took place within the walls of the Security and Intelligence Prison.

Al-Salahi was initially interrogated by the specialized criminal prosecution on November 23, 2019, nine months after his enforced disappearance and torture. His lawyers were not permitted to join the inquiry sessions.

A blue-toned portrait of Mohammed Al-Junaid, a man with short dark hair and a mustache, wearing a light-colored shirt. The portrait is set against a background of blue watercolor splatters and is enclosed in a blue-bordered rounded rectangle.

Mohammed Al-Junaid

- **Date of arrest:**
February 23, 2019
- **Date of sentence:**
June 28, 2022

More than 145 days have passed since the expiration of journalist Mohammed Al-Janid's sentence given by the specialized criminal court in Al-Hudeidah, which was set at three years and eight months in prison. Nonetheless, the Houthi group has failed to enforce the ruling and release him. The Houthi group is steadfast in its opposition to his release. In Al-Hudeidah's Political Security Prison, al-Janid remained hidden from public view for five months after his detention on February 23, 2019. His family spent a lot of money and time trying to find out his whereabouts, but was unable to locate him, even though five months have passed since his arrest. Searching for him and paying off people with ties to the Houthi militia only made things worse for the family. The basic requirements for a fair and impartial trial were not met during the prosecution of Al-Junaid. He was put on trial behind closed doors in Sana'a and Al-Hudeidah at the Public Prosecution, the Criminal Court, and the Security and Intelligence Prison. The first time Al-Junaid was interrogated was a year after his impris-

onment, and lawyers were not permitted to attend. They were moved to the Security and Intelligence Prison in Al-Hudeidah from the Security and Intelligence Prison in Sana'a at the beginning of June 2022. Al-Junaid and Al-Salahi were found guilty on all counts against them, including spying, supporting the aggression, and damaging public security, during a hearing of the Special Criminal Court in Al-Hudeidah on June 28. They were given a total of three years and eight months in jail, beginning counting from the day they were taken into custody.



Systematic Harassment and Assault of Female Journalists

The environment where Yemeni female journalists work is hostile, since a variety of methods and approaches are employed to target them. Among these violations women journalists suffer include arrest, physical and psychological assaults, extortion, bullying, defaming their reputation and dishonoring them via multiple electronic, social platforms. This has imposed a tough emotional and humanitarian burden on them and their families. What makes the situation worse is the traditions and customs of the society which look down on women, in general, and female journalists, in particular. These journalists are barely able to conduct their job freely, which causes them either to quit their jobs or never stand up for themselves but keep quiet. This has given perpetrators, fearless of repercussions, an opportunity to persist in transgression and abuses against them. We can take two examples to illustrate the deteriorated situation in Yemen. First, Rasha Al Harazi, a journalist, was brutally murdered. The other example is of journalist Hala Badawy, who was detained and tortured for practicing her profession. Furthermore, those involved in her case attempted to discredit

her to inflict more harm by publishing fabricated videos. Such practices can destroy the life of any female journalist and her family where a community has derogatory attitudes toward women.

Although it is the responsibility of the judicial system and enforcement bodies to protect female journalists from such practices and arbitrary violations, the warring parties have succeeded in weakening them and preventing the implementation of rights laws.

During the past seven years of conflict, the Observatory recorded thirty-nine violations against female journalists, but the real number is believed to be bigger. It is due to the fact that many violations against women journalist are not reported because these journalists fear either perpetrators' reaction or vilification, which makes it difficult to monitor and document



Journalists still behind bars ²⁰

NO	Name	No of days behind bars ²¹	Current place of detention	Violation Responsibility
1	Waheed Al-Soufi	2802 Days	Sana'a	Houthi group
2	Abdul Khaliq Omran	2762 Days	Sana'a	Houthi group
3	Tawfiq Al-Mansouri	2762 Days	Sana'a	Houthi group
4	Akram Al-Walidy	2762 Days	Sana'a	Houthi group
5	Harith Hamid	2762 Days	Sana'a	Houthi group
6	Mohammed Al-Salahi	1533 Days	Sana'a	Houthi group
7	Nabil Al-Soudi	2658 Days	Sana'a	Houthi group
8	Mohammad Ali Al-Junaid	1407 Days	Hodeidah	Houthi group
9	Walid Al-Matari	924 Days	Ibb	Houthi group
10	Mohammed Al-Hatami	1549 Days	Hodeidah	Houthi group
11	Mohammed Al-Muqri	2637 Days	Hadramout	Al-Qaida organization
12	Abdul Rahman Khalid	308 Days	Sana'a	Houthi group
13	Nabil Sultan	393 Days	Sana'a	Houthi group
14	Ahmed Maher	148 Days	Aden	Legitimate Yemen government

20 - Until December 30, 2022

21 - From the date of the arrest until 30 December 2022



Studies and Economic Media Center (SEM-C) is one of the Civil society organizations that works on economic field, awareness and promote the economic issues transparency, good governance and participated citizens in decision-making. Also, It works to find a professional media

<https://economicmedia.net/>







Yemen Media Freedoms Observatory (MARSADAK) is a monitoring and information platform aimed at disseminating all matters relating to freedoms of opinion and expression in various Yemeni regions in a professional and independent manner, as well as, analyzing and advocating for journalists' issues at the local and international levels.

<https://marsadak.org/>

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